

Khaddam flies to Tehran

DAMASCUS, May 25 (R). — Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam left here today for a short visit to Tehran during which he will hand the Shah a message from President Hafez Assad. Official sources said the message dealt with latest developments of the Middle-East problem, but gave no details. Meanwhile, the government newspaper Tashrin said today that new developments had called for a change in U.S. President Jimmy Carter's stand, "and re-convening the Geneva (peace) conference again topped current international efforts to re-establish peace in the Middle East."

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانكليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية « الراي »

UNDOF mandate to be renewed

UNITED NATIONS, May 25 (R). — The Security Council will meet tomorrow to discuss extending the mandate of the U.N. peace-keeping force on the Golan Heights for another six months, a U.N. spokesman announced today. Both Israel and Syria have agreed to a renewal of the 1,248-man U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) which acts as a buffer between their armies. The current mandate expires at the end of this month.

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Fahd, Carter discuss recognised borders for Palestinian homeland

WASHINGTON, May 25 (R). — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz today wound up talks with President Carter optimistic that the United States would maintain pressure on Israel's new leaders to accept a Palestinian homeland.

His hopeful mood showed at a White House banquet last night when he thanked Mr. Carter for backing the homeland concept and for a "realistic view and increasing understanding of the Palestinian issue."

As the two men held the final meeting of their two days of talks, White House Energy Adviser James Schlesinger told a congressional committee he expected Saudi Arabia to continue to be a moderating influence on world oil prices.

He made no direct reference to how he reached his judgment, but he and other officials have been talking to Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, who came here with Prince Fahd.

In the past, the Saudis have linked their oil policies to expected political gestures from the United States, seeking especially pressure on Israel for concessions.

In his banquet speech, Prince Fahd referred to Mr. Carter's calls for the creation of a Palestinian homeland and Israeli return to 1967 borders with perhaps minor changes.

Prince Fahd said he believed President Carter's views, which conflict sharply with Mr. Begin's, "will give the issue the needed thrust to achieve a just peace and permanent stability in the Middle East."

The White House yesterday disclosed the president and Prince Fahd had discussed a process for setting up a secure Palestinian homeland alongside a secure Israel, both with recognised borders.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli mass-circulation daily Maariv said today that remarks by the U.S. president on a Palestinian homeland revealed the American administration was advancing

towards a solution to the Palestinian issue.

Mr. Carter said yesterday at a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd that a future Palestinian state should be given "recognised boundaries."

Maariv said: "The remarks by Mr. Carter revealed that the American administration was rapidly advancing towards a territorial solution to the Palestinian issue which bears grave danger to Israel's security."

"President Carter has made another step in his 'Palestinian concept,'" the paper said.

Referring to White House spokesman Jody Powell's statements on the president's remarks, Maariv said:

"Whoever followed American diplomatic technique in recent months knows by now that the president's 'slips of the tongue' are not accidental or spontaneous."

"The same applies to his spokesmen's denials and explanations which are only designed to soften the shock resulting from his statements," Maariv said.

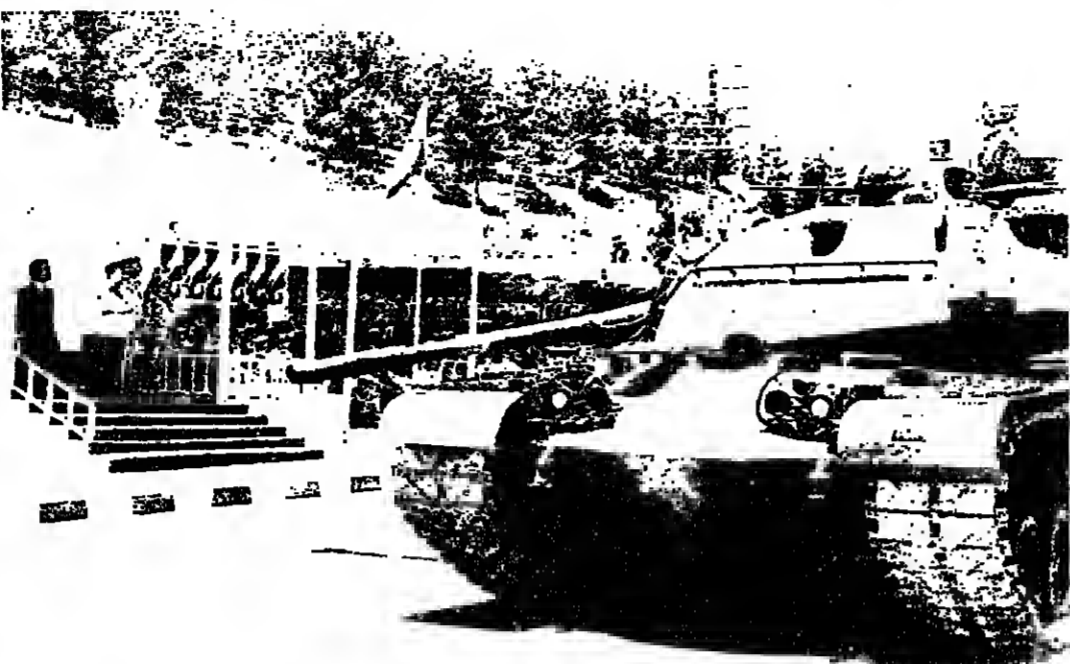
The newspaper added that the latest remarks by the American president can only strengthen the vote (in last week's general elections) of hundreds of thousands of Israelis for the (victorious rightwing) Likud Party.

"As they believed the party forms an obstacle to the 'nightmare' of a Palestinian state whose 'secure boundaries' could be within artillery range of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance conferred at length this morning with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince-Saud Al Faisal.

In Jeddah, the Saudi royal court announced today that Prince Fahd will visit Spain from next Tuesday until June 3.

The prince is paying a four-day visit at the invitation of King Juan Carlos, the announcement said. The King visited Egypt and Jordan this year as part of a drive by Spain to expand its ties with the Arab World.



His Majesty King Hussein takes salute as a tank, named after him, passes by during the jubilee military parade to observe Independence and Army Day in Amman, Wednesday. (JT photo).

Soviet Union expected to publish new draft constitution soon

MOSCOW, May 25 (R). — The Soviet Union is expected to publish a new draft constitution soon which may indicate the future shape of the Kremlin leadership after the removal of President Nikolai Podgorny from the Communist Party's ruling politburo.

The 74-year-old Ukrainian was dropped from the Communist Party's executive inner cabinet and top executive body yesterday in the first top level leadership change since Nikita Khrushchev was ousted in 1964.

No reason was given for the surprise dismissal, announced after a plenary meeting of the party's policy-making Central Committee.

Western analysts said President Podgorny was virtually certain to step down as head of state after losing his politburo job. The move could be linked with the new Soviet constitution, in preparation since the early 1960s, they said.

Observers believe there is a good chance that Communist

Party chief Leonid Brezhnev may take over the president's post in addition to his present duties.

Mr. Brezhnev, who has emerged as undisputed leader of the Kremlin's ruling trio since 1970, possibly hinted at such a move when he told the Central Committee plenum that the new constitution took into account developments in other communist states.

President Podgorny is expected to be formally voted out of office as president at next month's session of the Supreme Soviet -- the nation's parliament. But the session is not expected to appoint a new permanent president.

It is thought unlikely that the Supreme Soviet could debate the draft constitution as it must first undergo several months of public discussion.

Western observers have also suggested that Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin could assume the presidency. Last year he was reported to have had a stroke and as president he would have less onerous duties.

Analysts were sceptical about suggestions that Mr. Podgorny was retiring for reasons of ill-health or old age. The announcement yesterday contained no reference to his departing at his own request -- the traditional formula used to cover retirement.

Mr. Podgorny succeeded former President Anastas Mikoyan in December 1965. Yesterday's plenum also voted out of office 49-year-old Konstantin Katushev, Secretary to the Central Committee and one of the Kremlin's rising stars.

Mr. Katushev was made a deputy premier with responsibility for Comecon, the communist economic group, last March. He is succeeded in the Central Committee by his deputy 68-year-old Konstantin Rusakov.

In Vienna, East European leaders stayed silent today following the surprise demotion of President Podgorny, amid signs of a new Kremlin drive to tighten communist bloc discipline.

East European analysts said the simultaneous promotion of Communist Party Secretary Konstantin Rusakov, apparently to become the Kremlin's new link man for Soviet bloc countries, added to the uncertainty.

There was widespread speculation that Mr. Rusakov's appointment heralded a possibly tougher policy for still closer ideological and political coordination between Moscow and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Rusakov belongs to a generation of hard-line Soviet communists.

East European analysts linked the changeover with recent signs of a harder Soviet policy against political dissidence, ideological "softness," and against a deviationist Eurocommunist movement in Italy, France and Spain.

King voices unease about Likud victory

Nation marks Army, Independence Day

AMMAN, May 25 (R). — His Majesty King Hussein took the salute today at an Independence and Army Day and jubilee parade in which Jordan put on show its new Vulcan anti-aircraft guns, and Howitzers capable of firing tactical nuclear warheads.

The display of military might, held to mark 30 years of Jordanian independence, acquired added importance because this year marks His Majesty's 25th year on the throne.

The 110-minute parade was televised live.

As eight-inch self-propelled guns rumbled past the reviewing stand on the road from Amman to the University of Jordan the television commentator said they were capable of firing nuclear warheads.

The track-mounted Vulcans are part of the \$540 million air defence deal concluded with the United States last year, under which Jordan is also to receive 14 batteries of Hawk surface to air missiles.

At the end of the parade a

group of jet fighters screamed overhead, flying in formation to trace the first letter of His Majesty's name and the figure 25.

King Hussein was described as one of the most persistent peace seekers in the Middle East by a British newspaper today.

The Financial Times, in a four-page survey on Jordan, said "peace is a word which rolls more frequently and more plausibly off the tongue of King Hussein than any other leader in the Middle East."

But the survey, which also covered Jordan's industrial and agricultural production, said that the prospect of a settlement -- however marred by the victory of the Hawkish Likud bloc in Israel's general elections -- worried the Jordanians.

The King warned in an interview with Agence France Press today that he was uneasy about the current situation in the Middle East following the Likud victory, although he reiterated his confidence in the determination of the Carter administration to promote a just peace in the region.

"The smallest incident or provocation could bring about an explosion in the Middle East,"

he said, "because the new leaders of Israel could be tempted to modify the situation on the ground so as to present us with a new equation."

"This is why," King Hussein continued, "the situation is more delicate now than ever before and now requires prudence and circumspection above all. The results of the Israeli elections could very well have a negative effect on the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East in the near future."

King Hussein said he saw the Likud victory "not so much the result of domestic factors as a hard-line choice by the Israeli electorate. The Israeli voter had a choice between peace and intransigence in relation to the continued occupation of Arab land."

King Hussein said President Carter was a courageous man who would do all he could to bring about peace in the Middle East, but he added "there could be no doubt that the Soviet Union had a role to play in peace efforts in the region."

Asked about the talks between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, he said he hoped it would "lead to unified political action."

First batch of Hawk missiles due here in August

AMMAN, — Jordan will receive its first Hawk anti-aircraft missiles from the United States in August, the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief, Lt. Gen. Zeid Ibn Shaker, said here today.

In a statement issued on the eve of Jordan's Independence and Army Day, Gen. Ibn Shaker said Jordan had also been modernising its fleet of fighter planes in the last two years.

"We have received a considerable number of American F-5 fighters and will continue to receive more in the coming years," he added.

The United States agreed last year to supply Jordan with 14 batteries of Hawk missiles under a \$540 million deal financed by Saudi Arabia.

Disputes over the cost held up the deal for a considerable time.

The general said the victory of the rightwing Likud Party in the Israeli general election boded ill for Middle East peace prospects.

"Israel might resort to war because she fears peace and this demands full coordination between all the Arab states, because the Israeli danger threatens them all," he said.

Gen. Ibn Shaker added that there was good military coordination between Jordan and its neighbouring ally Syria.

Rabin resumes duties of premier

Begin pronounced in good condition

TEL AVIV, May 25 (R). — Mr. Menachem Begin, who led the Likud Party to victory in Israel's elections, would be able to become premier despite being rushed to hospital on Monday, his doctors said today.

They said his condition was "very good".

Dr. Shlomo Laniado, head of the cardiac intensive care unit at Tel Aviv's municipal hospital, said Mr. Begin had not suffered a heart attack.

The 64-year-old Likud leader had a heart attack two months ago. But Dr. Laniado told a press conference his present condition was caused by inflammation of the membrane surrounding the heart and would be treated with ordinary Aspirin.

The doctor said Mr. Begin would remain in hospital until the end of the week for rest. Then he would be able to resume active politics.

He said there would be no medical reason to prevent Mr. Begin from travelling to Washington to meet President Carter after becoming prime minister.

However Dr. Laniado advised Mr. Begin to stop working

15 to 20 hours a day, as he had been doing up to and after last week's elections. Such activity was too much for him, the doctor said.

The Likud Party and the National Religious Party, one of its probable government coalition allies, held their first negotiations today.

A Likud spokesman said the two groups were in agreement on the policy of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories on a religious status quo and on the problems of state security.

The leader of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) Prof. Yigael Yadin told reporters after a meeting yesterday with the Likud that the two groups had agreed on their desire for peace, their willingness to attend a peace conference in Geneva and their opposition to the creation of a "Palestinian mini-state alongside Israel headed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

Some unconfirmed reports said that the Likud might call on ex-Defence Minister Moshe Dayan to join them, together with rightwingers from the Labour Party, if a DMC-Likud coalition proved impossible to form.

Mr. Yitzhak Rabin yesterday resumed his functions as Israel's caretaker prime minister after a month's leave of absence, fuelling speculation that he may want to fight Mr. Shimon Peres for the leadership of the Labour Party.

Mr. Rabin's return to office was said to have infuriated Mr. Peres, the defence minister.

Mr. Peres presided over cabinet sessions during Mr. Rabin's absence in the run-up to last week's general election -- in which their Labour Party lost 19 seats and the rightwing Likud movement became the biggest grouping in the Knesset.

Mr. Rabin had said he would be on holiday until the election, but it had generally been assumed that Mr. Peres would continue to lead Israeli affairs until the Likud Party could form a new cabinet.

Likud leaders said they hoped to form a cabinet by mid-June, but with Mr. Begin suffering from ill health and exhaustion, this could take longer. Observers noted that Mr. Rabin would in that time be able to influence Israeli policies.

Aides said Mr. Rabin met Justice Minister Haim Zadok to discuss the transfer of power to a Likud-led coalition.

The Labour Party hopes to take some revenge on the Likud movement in next month's important Histadrut trades union elections and Mr. Rabin's role until that time could result in his unseating Mr. Peres as future head of the Labour opposition.

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Arafat says in Bahrain

PLO would attend Geneva if invited, agenda accommodates Palestinian views

BAHRAIN, May 25 (R). — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived here late last night as part of a tour of Arab countries.

Mr. Arafat, who flew in from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) told reporters on arrival that he was touring Arab capitals to brief their leaders on last March's meeting in Cairo of the Palestine National Council and discuss the Palestine issue against the background of recent changes in the area.

He did not spell out the changes but well-informed sources said today he was referring to the election success of the Israeli rightwing Likud bloc.

Asked if the PLO would attend a resumed Geneva Middle East conference he said: "But is there any Geneva conference? There has been much talk about it since 1974 and nothing has so far materialised."

"We will think it over when we receive an invitation and an agenda. If such an agenda takes the Palestinian viewpoints into consideration, then we shall attend."

"Otherwise I have fought (the Israelis) for 13 years now

and I shall fight for 13 more years even more," he added.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Bahrain from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) late last night on the second and last leg of a tour in the Gulf.

He said he had talks with the Emir of Bahrain before he left for Saudi Arabia this morning, on topics that included latest developments in the Palestine question and the general Arab situation. He briefed the Emir on the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council which met in Cairo in March.

The Palestinian leader said he was not awaiting recognition by Israel or the United States of Palestinian existence.

"I exist whether Israel and the United States want that or not. I am a cardinal number in the Middle East equation."

Mr. Arafat, who visited Moscow last month, said it was the first time he met Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev.

"I can say that the talks serve my people, my nation and my cause."

On Lebanon he said he has

been fighting the Israelis for seven months now. "They are covering themselves behind the 'isolationist' (rightwing) forces," he added.

Asked on the Cairo agreement he said his organisation had already implemented 95 per cent of its articles.

He said "the state does not exist in the south and we and the Lebanese authorities will implement the rest when such authorities are there in the south."

The bone of contention was that article which provided for the protection of the refugee camps and progress was now being made towards solving the differences, he added.

Asked what had happened to the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, Mr. Arafat said "the dialogue which began in January was at the initiative of the PLO. I met His Majesty King Hussein in Cairo on my own initiative and briefed him on my viewpoints."

"I am now awaiting a reply from His Majesty King Hussein or from his government for a resumption of the dialogue," he said.

On Lebanon he said he has

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India, Bangladesh may resolve some key problems at Commonwealth meet

Agreement has just been reached in talks between India and Bangladesh on sharing the Ganges waters -- a dispute that has dragged on for more than two years. The development marks a change for the better in relations between the two countries, both of which now have new leaders. Gemini News Service's correspondent traces the history of the dispute and the reasons for the change in attitudes.

By Mufazzal Husain

DACCA (Gemini) — When Bangladesh's new President, Maj-Gen. Ziaur Rahman, and India's new Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, are in London for the Commonwealth summit meeting (June 8-16) they are likely to have important bilateral summit talks of their own. It will be the first time the two have met and there is much for them to talk about.

For Bangladesh and India are becoming good neighbours again -- a development that follows two years in which relations became bad because of the attitude taken by India's former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, towards the military leadership which took over in Bangladesh after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination.

The latest phase in the improvement in relations has just taken place with agreement in Delhi on sharing the Ganges waters. In six days of talks a Bangladesh team negotiated a sharing for seven months of the year, the period for which Bangladesh wants stipulated quantities laid down. More talks will be held at the end of June to sign the agreement.

The thaw was first achieved at a fourth round of talks in Dacca on April 18 -- exactly two years after Mr. Mujib's government had signed a 41-day treaty with India for water sharing and commissioning of the Farakka Barrage (7,229 feet long with 109 spans) built by India at a cost of 1600 million rupees across the Ganges, only 11 miles upstream of the Bangladesh border.

After the overthrow of Mr. Mujib, Bangladesh accused India of unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges waters at Farakka in violation of the agreement. Talks to resolve the dispute failed.

Finally, last November, Bangladesh took the issue to the United Nations. A statement adopted by the special political committee of the U.N. General Assembly called on the two countries to resume bilateral negotiations. But three rounds of talks ended in fiasco.

The fourth round agreement came as a result of a last-minute three-hour meeting between President Zia and Indian Defence Minister, Jagjivan Ram.

The meeting did not form part of the formal talks which had nearly broken down the day before. Mr. Ram had postponed his departure twice at the request of Rear Admiral M. H. Khan, leader of the Bangladesh delegation and navy chief.

The water-sharing agreement is expected to include: (A) The mechanism of sharing the water; (B) Provisions to ensure guaranteed deliveries to Bangladesh below the Farakka Barrage; and (C) Setting up of a joint commission or committee to ensure delivery of an agreed quantum of waters to Bangla-

desh at Farakka, to supervise, implement and ensure compliance of the agreed provisions and procedure to resolve differences or disputes.

The agreement has also to provide for long-term studies to augment the dry season flow of the Ganges, currently estimated at 55,000 cusecs at the minimum.

neighbours. Mrs. Gandhi's government did not have the political will to settle because Bangladesh would not toe the Indian line in foreign relations.

The insurgency along the Indo-Bangladesh borders backed by the Indian border security force was another manifestation of Mrs. Gandhi's anger. True, Bangladesh was grateful to her personally for her role in the liberation war of 1971, but after independence its people became suspicious about India's real intentions.

What has emerged following Mrs. Gandhi's defeat is a new approach by the two governments on the basis of political will to improve relations. This point, made by Mr. Desai soon after winning the elections was also stressed by Mr. Ram in Dacca.

President Zia put two conditions -- dismantling of the border camps and the sharing of the Ganges -- for an improvement of relations with India. Observers believe the camps will be dismantled.

Officials are now reviewing the whole gamut of bilateral relations to prepare a framework for an overall settlement of disputes and mutual cooperation between the two countries in different fields.

Thus the London Commonwealth conference will provide an opportunity for Mr. Desai and President Zia to talk over wide-ranging subjects of common interest and concern.

One diplomat here remarked that Bangladesh and India were now sailing on the same boat. The change of government in India may mean a change in the power equations of the sub-continental states on a global perspective.

In this event, Bangladesh will have to guard against the risks of shutting form one axis to another to protect her legitimate national interests which in many cases are distinct from those of India -- a big brother.

President ZIAUR RAHMAN

Of this Bangladesh's share was roughly 40,000 cusecs as per the agreement with India when the Farakka Barrage was commissioned two years ago. But Mrs. Gandhi's government offered only 30,000 cusecs, 10,000 fewer than Bangladesh was allowed previously.

This was the major blockage in relations between the two



President ZIAUR RAHMAN

Economic package of Jamaica's premier defeats leftist

By Cedric Lindo

KINGSTON (Gemini) — In a keenly contested struggle the moderates of Jamaica's ruling People's National Party, of which Prime Minister Michael Manley is one, appear to have defeated the leftwing group.

This, at least, is what emerges from the series of measures that have been taken in the last few months to pull the Jamaican economy round from its weak situation.

Last January Mr. Manley served Jamaica a tough economic package intended to counter a declining economy coupled with a much reduced revenue and an adverse balance of payments situation.

He promised an emergency production plan and in April in a televised session of parliament, the plan was duly unveiled in a three-hour speech which included many political statements as well as giving guidelines for increased production.

The most important part of it was a devaluation of Jamaica's dollar by a whopping 37.5 per cent. It was a devaluation with a difference. Basically Jamaica's dollar moved from

90 Jamaican cents to the U.S. dollar to \$1.25 to the U.S. dollar.

But this depreciation, as the prime minister put it -- he avoided the word devaluation (perhaps because the opposition had demanded a 40 per cent devaluation) -- did not apply to all transactions. In his phrase, it was a "two-level fixing arrangement."

Under it the old rate was still to be used to apply to the goods, particularly food, consumed by the masses, such as imported meat and flour and exports of bauxite and alumina which bulk largely in Jamaica's trade. The new rate applied to all other foreign exchange transactions.

This would discourage the import of "top-essentials", said the prime minister, and ultimately bring about the replacing of them by local substitutes. It would also give exports of locally produced goods and the tourist trade a competitive advantage in overseas markets.

But it is possible that the political statements made by Mr. Manley's marathon speech may be more significant in the long run than the devaluation and the production incentive measures. He carefully repeated the policy of his party set out in a published paper in No-

Third Circle Phantasmic By Omar Jawad

Pass the technology...

One of the questions that seems to be of universal concern these days is inflation, and it is often directly tied to international trade matters. I figured that Jordan cannot be immune from the concerns of everyone else in the world, and to find out how the local population feels about all this I took a stroll through downtown last week asking questions of some people I ran into. The first person I saw was Abu Habib. He looked sullen, so I asked him what the matter was.

"It's the economic situation," he replied, "prices are rising so quickly that I cannot keep pace. I don't know what to do."

I asked him if he wanted to borrow some money.

"No, no, that's not what I want," he answered. "What I need is a new international economic order, some stability in the commodities markets and a big push in the transfer of technology between the industrialised world and the developing nations. Not only do I want this, but Imn Habib wants the same thing. We were discussing it this morning at breakfast."

It surprised me to hear this kind of talk from Abu Habib. I didn't think his simple life was touched by these global economic matters, so I asked him to explain further.

"Have you bought a falafel sandwich recently?" he asked. "The price has gone up, and you get less and less falafel for your dinar. Have you seen the small loaves of bread they use for the falafel sandwiches these days? We're being caught in a terrible squeeze, Omar, and the gap is getting bigger."

I asked him if he meant the gap between the world's rich and poor people.

"No, I mean the gap between the falafel patties inside the sandwich," he said. "In the old days, those three patties would be touching each other. Today, you're lucky if you get two patties, and they're so far apart inside the bread that they probably don't even know they're supposed to be in the same sandwich."

I asked him what he wanted from a new international economic order.

"To begin with, we can have a falafel stockpile, which would be made possible by an international raw materials and basic foods fund that I would call the Global Hommos, Falafel and Hot Peppers Investment and Credit Fund."

I asked Abu Habib how this fund would work.

"That's easy," he replied, "because Imn Habib and I worked it all out this morning while we were having our breakfast of onions and olives. The fund would appoint representatives in every major city, and these representatives would go out onto the streets at about 9 p.m. every evening, just about when the food shops are closing. If any shop had surplus falafel or hommos that day, these would be bought up cheaply by the fund and stored in deep freezers for consumption at a later date, when world falafel and hommos stocks were running low."

I asked him how much money he thought the fund would need to start off with.

"Not much," he replied "maybe \$50 million."

I said that seemed like a lot of money to stockpile falafel, hommos and green peppers.

"Well, perhaps you're right," Abu Habib conceded, "but we have to plan for the future. This money would not all go to buying excess foods. I'd need at least \$49 million to buy a piece of land in Jabal Amman, and the rest would be for the stockpiles."

But what did he need land in Jabal Amman for, and especially of such an expensive price?

"Well, Omar, this is where the transfer of technology comes into the picture," he explained. "We hope to buy this land to set up a technical training institute for falafel makers, hommos mixers and hot pepper growers, and we are thinking of bringing in West German and Swiss technicians to manage the institute along the most modern lines used in the industrialised states."

But what do Europeans know about this kind of thing, I asked Abu Habib?

"Nothing, but that's the whole idea. We plan to bring some Europeans here for a few months, get them addicted to falafel, hommos and peppers, and then send them back home. They'll be so hooked on this food that our export potential would increase sharply, and under the terms of the new trade agreement with the EEC, we can export food products to Europe without having to pay tariffs. Our export earnings will rise, we'll have enough to come to keep buying falafel sandwiches, and we'll start a whole new process of the transfer of technology from the Arab World to the West. They give us their technology, and we give them ours. That's the kind of new international economic order I'm talking about. You know what they say in the West: The way to a man's technology is through his stomach."

JBC (Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation). Another non-productive announcement was the promise to set up an Electoral Commission to replace the present Constituency Boundaries Committee which gives the party in power the opportunity to affix boundaries which favour it.

The opposition had called for this, having claimed after the general election of last December that there had been wholesale rigging, apart from gerrymandering. Certainly the voting in some constituencies seemed open to question; for instance in St. Andrew Southern the voter turnout was 99.3 per cent only 37 voters out of a total of 17,262 not voting, according to the official count.

Finally, Mr. Manley promised that the state of emergency under which Jamaica has been since June 18 of last year would shortly be lifted. More than 200 people are still in detention, out of a total of some 530 since last June, and none has been brought to trial.

As a result of all this, there have been public complaints from radicals that the government is pandering to the capitalists. But the economy badly needs a large injection of capital and the package may provide it.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two Jordanian dailies commented in their Wednesday editorials on the speech delivered by His Majesty King Hussein on the eve of Jordan's Independence and Army Day.

from occupied Arab lands, recognition of the rights of the Palestinians for self determination and the establishment of a homeland.

His Majesty, the paper concluded, has wanted to consecrate the above principles on which the Jordanian entity was established.

AL DUSTOUR, said that His Majesty has outlined in his speech the meaning of Jordan's independence and the reasons for its existence. Jordan has been and is a positive and active element in the Arab World and in the region, the paper said. And there is no meaning for its existence without that positive role.

AL SHA'B said that during the past thirty three years of Jordan's independence, the country has been the refuge for all Arab revolutionary leaders who found in this country a starting point and a base from which they could build Arab countries and prepare for their independence.

Jordan's march towards progress and construction in the military and public sectors has been done in conformity with the aims of the great Arab revolt and its ambitions, the paper said.

Jordan's mission is based on three factors; the intellectual doctrine based on Arab values and the Islamic message; its political doctrine based on logic and moderation and facts, and thirdly its belief in free dialogue with the international community and its readiness to interact with international thinking.

Jordan and its army developed during the past twenty five years to become an example to be followed by other Arab nations. When we recollect the events of the past, the paper added, we remember how His Majesty's efforts with courage, wisdom and faith have been able to lead the country to progress, in spite of the many difficulties which, in our belief, no other country has passed through in this modern age.

When we review what has been achieved in the military and other fields, we cannot but renew our feeling of appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty, the paper concluded.

The third factor of Jordan's mission is based on its social background: Jordan is reputed for its social solidarity and cohesion and the pursuit of social and economic development.

With these three factors in mind His Majesty has reminded the Arab nation of two facts: That the road to peace is long and that the responsibility in achieving it relies on the Arabs themselves and secondly that Jordan shall continue to act on the basis that a just peace is a sine qua non to our region, that it should be based on an Israeli withdrawal

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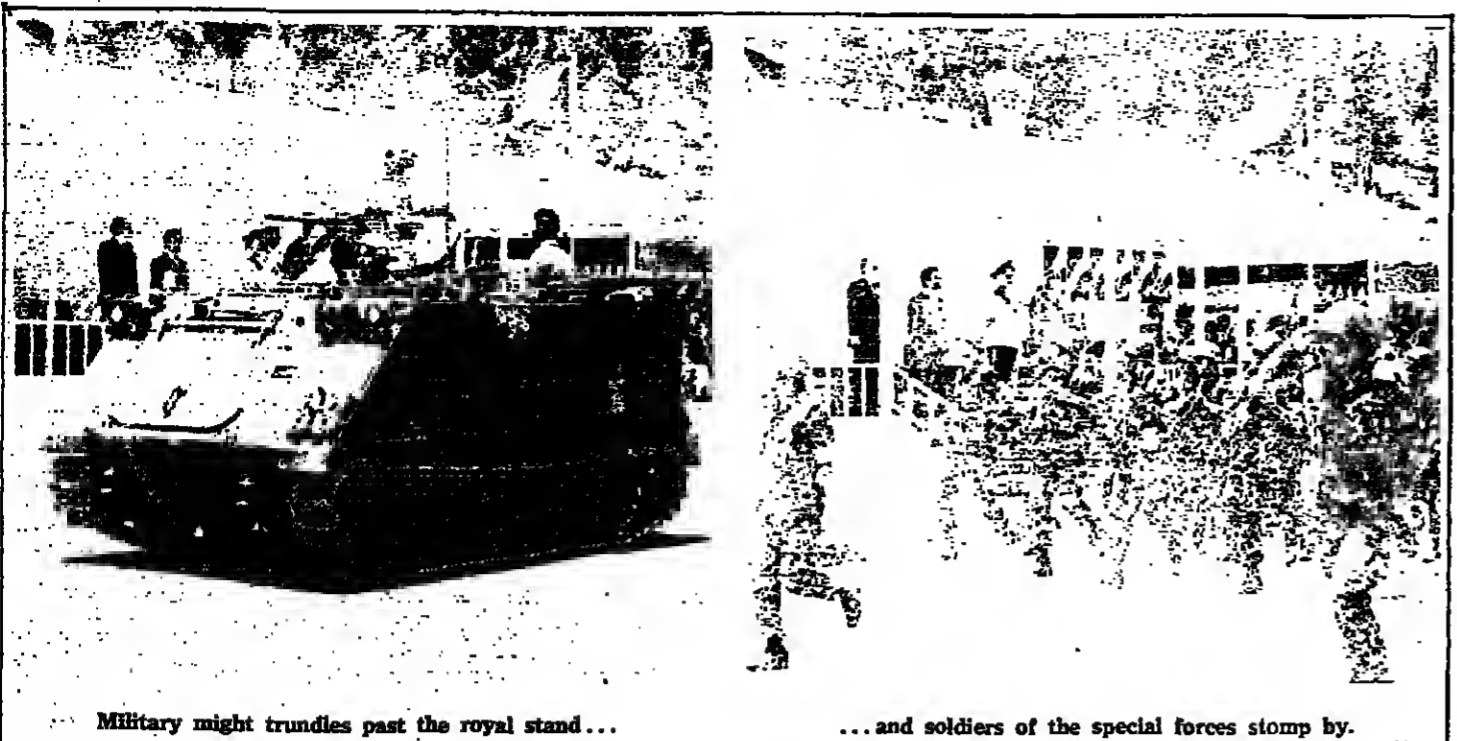
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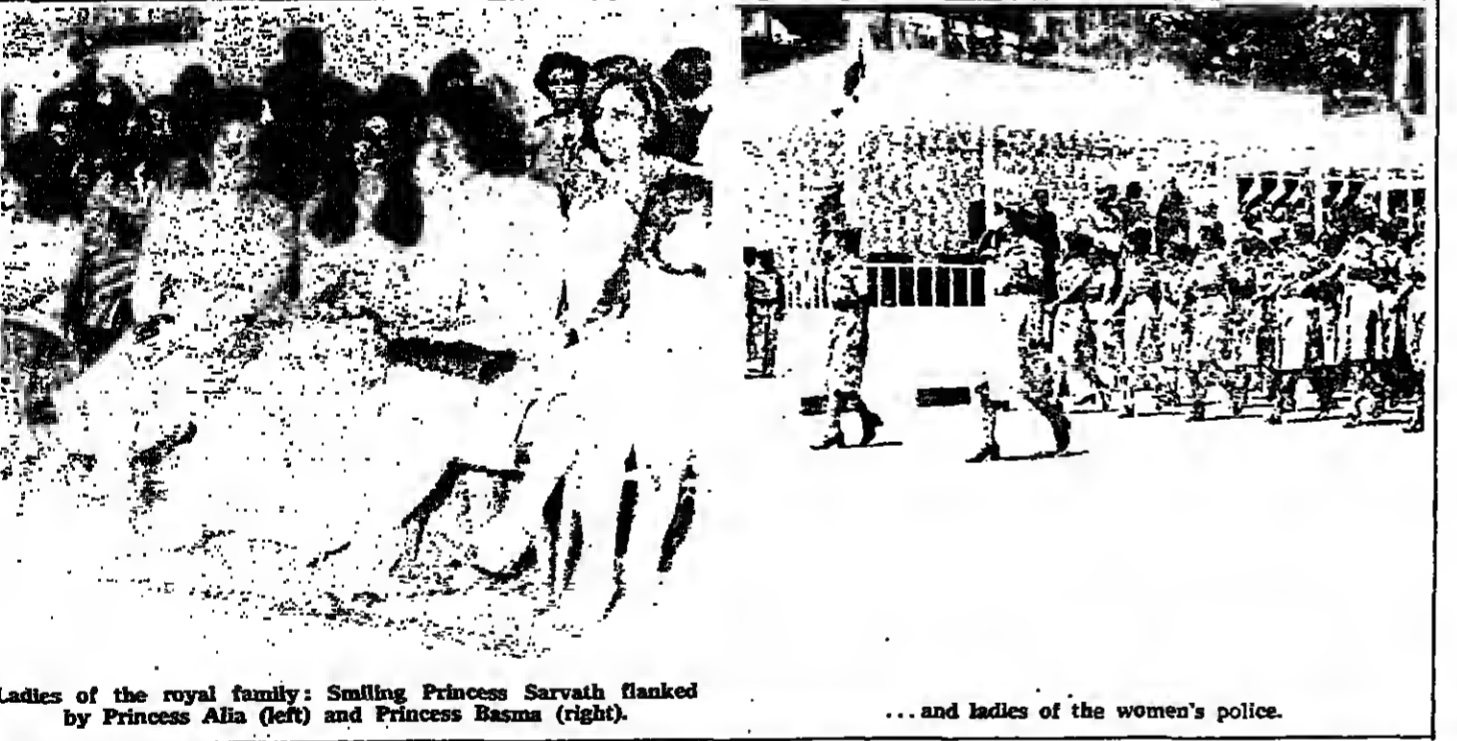
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A helicopter displays a banner -- Hussein 25. Badia soldiers bring camels to the capital.

on Army & Independence Day



Ladies of the royal family: Smiling Princess Sarvath flanked by Princess Alia (left) and Princess Basma (right). ... and ladies of the women's police.

Prince Hassan tells Al Fajr Jordan can become regional centre

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan has the ability to become a trade centre for channelling imported goods to neighbouring markets. His Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the Jordanian economic magazine Al Fajr.

Prince Hassan stated that Jordan enjoys a unique geographical situation in being at the centre of transit routes between the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea and the Arab Gulf.

This position, he added, can make Jordan a regional centre for industrial expertise, raw materials and Arab knowhow, creating an ideal climate for the combining of Western and Eastern technology.

Prince Hassan stressed that if Jordan is to meet the tremendous demand in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia, it has to ensure a sufficient degree of organisation.

The prince also talked about development projects in the ghor region. He explained that this region, if properly taken care of and developed, could yield up to four crops per year. This is the goal of planners.

Prince Hassan stated that the area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea must be a source of wealth to its inhabitants in the first place. Newcomers, and especially those who come from large cities, are given the chance to take their share, but that will be through an organised process, and not on an individual basis.

His Highness concluded by saying that Jordan's experiment has enriched that of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and other countries through fulfilling that region's needs for expertise and skilled workers.



His Majesty King Hussein, Premier Mudar Badran and, in centre, Mr. Bahauddin Toukan, father of the late Queen Alia, chat at a dinner after Wednesday's parade for Independence Army Day.

Hassan Ibrahim returns from Islamic conference

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim returned here Wednesday after taking part in the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Tripoli.

Mr. Ibrahim told reporters that Jordan's delegation emphasised the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, the restoration of Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He said the delegation distributed a memorandum to conference about Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab areas.

The minister of state also referred to Jordan's role in supporting West Bank intifada, so as to enable them to actively stand against the plans to judaise the occupied land.

Saudi Arabia donated \$5 million and the Islamic Solidarity Fund \$1.5 million to the Palestine Fund, Mr. Ibrahim said.

The conference approved economic, technical and cooperation agreements with the Islamic countries.

A total of 48 Arab and Muslim states took part in the eight-day conference.

KING HUSSEIN RECEIVES ARMY DAY CABLES

AMMAN (JNA). — Cables of congratulation on Independence and Army Day were received by His Majesty King Hussein from kings and heads of state of Arab and foreign countries.

Congratulations included the king of Morocco, the Iraqi president, the amirs of Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar and the Shah of Iran.

Other cables came from the queen of Britain, presidents of Czechoslovakia, East Germany, North Korea, the Seychelles, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, Soviet Union, Switzerland, Greece, France and Chad, as well as the emperor of Japan and the kings of Spain and Nepal.

King Hussein also received cables of good wishes from Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni, Mayor of Amman Ma'n Abu Nuwar and Public Security Director General Maj.-Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat.

Further cables flowed in from a number of top ranking army officers, representatives of private and official bodies, trade unions and voluntary societies and members of the public.

Prince Hassan speaks at ILO meet June 10

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan will speak at a special session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) annual conference in Geneva June 10.

An ILO spokesman said Tuesday Crown Prince Hassan was expected to speak on social policy to an audience of some 1,400 conference delegates representing governments, workers and employers' associations.

The 133-nation ILO frequently invites a leading statesman to address its annual three-week conference.

Prince Hassan received an invitation from ILO Director General Francis Blanchard in appreciation of his role in the economic and social field in Jordan.

Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni will lead Jordan's delegation to the conference, which will debate a number of labour topics, implementation of ILO agreements and recommendations and the problem of racial discrimination in South Africa. A total of 135 countries are expected to participate.

NATIONAL NOTES

- * AMMAN. — Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni Wednesday received a cable of good wishes on the occasion of Independence and Army Day from the president of the Yez National Assembly.
- * AMMAN (JNA). — The Commander-in-Chief of the Air Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker Wednesday received cables of good wishes for Independence and Army Day from mayor of Amman, the Public Security Director, the Civil Defence director and the president of the General Federation of Jordan Trade Unions.
- * MADABA (JNA). — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Ibrahim Ayyoub opened the first stage of the new JD 50 government complex at Madaba Tuesday. The mayor of Madaba said the project is a fruit of cooperation between his municipality and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

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France crippled by nation-wide strike

PARIS, May 25 (AFP). — A nationwide general strike yesterday practically brought France to a standstill, with hundreds of thousands of people marching in protest against the government's economic programme, and both public and private industrial sectors closing up for the day.

Political analysts described the day as the biggest demonstration of worker militancy since 1968, when the government of General Charles de Gaulle was nearly brought down by a massive campaign of strikes and street demonstrations.

All the major unions participated in the strike, ranging from the communist-led CGT Union to the moderate F.O. Union, which normally turns its back on any action which it considers politically motivated.

Union and police figures on participation in the street marches differed, but nationwide reports gave the following turnout in major cities:

- Paris: hundreds of thousands -- 72,000 police
- Bordeaux: 50,000 -- 10,000
- Marseille: 50,000 -- 22,000
- Lyons: 30,000 -- police figure unknown
- Rouen: 40,000 -- 25,000
- Bayonne: 12,000 -- 5,000
- Perpignan: 12,000 -- 4,000
- Lille: 15,000 -- police figure unknown.

Marches massing up to 10,000 people took place in other towns, with the turnout in the Bordeaux region estimated by the unions at 95,000.

The CGT Union said its figures showed that 8 to 10 million workers went on strike.

A union communique later affirmed: "May 24 will go down as one of the memorab-

le dates in the French union movement."

Other unions involved in the strike were the socialist CFDT, the executive workers' CGC, the right-leaning CFTC and the teachers' FEN.

Practically all schools were closed. All the country's dockers walked out and 90 to 95 per cent of miners stayed home.

The nation's train service was reduced to one train in five, while up to 90 per cent of electricity and gas workers struck, depending on the region.

The electricity cuts, coupled with a walk-out by staff, caused the organisers to call off yesterday's session of the Cannes Film Festival -- the first time the world's biggest cinema gathering has suffered such a fate since the disturbances of 1961.

The street march in Paris was a mixture of folklore and determined workers' opposition to the austerity programme of Prime Minister and Finance Minister Raymond Barre.

A highlight of the five-and-a-half-hour march through Paris was the participation of the CGT Police Union, whose members, dressed in civilian clothes, chanted: "Police, workers -- same combat" and "police at the service of the workers."

Taxi drivers edged along in their cars, honking their horns to the chant of "union, action, joint programme." The joint programme is a manifesto drawn up by the Socialist and Communist Party Alliance.

A number of clashes between police and extremists were reported at the close of the march at the Gare de l'Est Station, but otherwise the demonstration passed off without incident.

No evidence of corrupt payments yet found in Leyland investigation

LONDON, May 25 (R). — A British Leyland internal investigation found no evidence of corrupt payments by its representatives to secure sales abroad, a chairman of the state-backed motor firm said today.

Sir Richard Dobson told an annual shareholders' meeting here he confidently expected British Leyland to be cleared of charges made against it.

"So far we have found no evidence to suggest that any payment have been made, other than to accredited agents or representative in the ordinary course of business," Sir Richard said.

Last week, the mass circulation Daily Mail newspaper published allegations that Leyland was involved in "a world-wide web of bribery" in a desperate bid to clinch sales, especially in the Middle East.

Yesterday, a Leyland executive and his wife appeared in court here charged with forging a letter used by the newspaper as part of its evidence for the story.

Sir Richard told today's meeting: "It is not and never has been the policy of this com-

pany to secure business by corrupt means."

He said a full investigation by the National Enterprise Board, a government-created agency which has a 95 per cent stake in Leyland, was proceeding and would reinforce British Leyland's inquiries.

The affair was now subject to the subject of legal proceedings which prevented full discussion -- but Sir Richard said "I can say we have found no evidence of bribery, corruption or a departure from the principles set out in the organisation's international rules which would support the matter of offering financial inducements to foreign government officials."

He added that although some key documents in the Daily Mail allegations had now been proved false, the company's name had been damaged, particularly abroad.

The Daily Mail is being used for defamation by Lord Ryder, Chairman of the National Enterprise Board. The paper used as part of its allegations a letter purporting to be from Lord Ryder to Leyland referring to "special account arrangements."

News focus

After a year of secret bargaining, it looks like the north-south dialogue could end with pretty slim pickings

By Anthony Winning

PARIS, May 25 (R). — The north-south dialogue between the highly industrialised and underdeveloped nations seems likely to cost the United States and its industrial allies one billion dollars in extra aid to the Third World.

In return the Americans, Europeans and Japanese want to remain in close touch with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to avoid another energy crisis and price explosion like those which followed the 1973 Middle East War.

It has taken more than a year of secret bargaining to point the way to this possible conclusion of the Paris economic dialogue which enters its final, decisive phase here on Monday.

Pretty slim pickings, on the face of it, considering ambitious plans for a new international economic order, fairer to the developing world, which were bandied about when the dialogue first began.

The outcome of the final ministerial conference from May 30 to June 1 is by no means certain. A last-minute upset could easily be caused by any one of the top government representatives from the 27 participants -- industrialised democracies on the one side and oil exporters and African, Asian and South American countries on the other.

But after many false starts and hesitations, a package deal is being assembled by the hundreds of officials who have been at work here since February last year.

If approved by the ministers it would look something like this, according to well informed sources --

The group of eight industrial participants the U.S., Canada, Japan, the European Common Market as a single unit, Australia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland would offer "special action programme" of easy access aid for countries with acute debt and poverty problems, OPEC and east bloc countries could also be asked to add their contributions.

-- A promise to engage in serious negotiations to set up a common fund which would help to steady raw material prices by financing commodity buffer stocks.

-- Tangible proof that the industrialised nations are improving their aid performance.

-- Proposals to improve the way in which the debt problems of developing countries with balance of payments problems are handled.

-- A promise to back a 10-year programme to be worked out elsewhere, to improve transport and communications generally in black Africa.

-- A promise to give developing countries more favourable treatment in multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva.

"In order for this to be of mutual benefit, we would like something on energy, although we have not asked for it yet," said one highly placed delegate from the industrial side.

What the industrialised countries have in mind is some sort of continuing consultation machinery with the OPEC countries on oil supply and prices, such as now exist in the energy commission at the Paris negotiations.

When the dialogue was first mooted by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing more than two years ago, the idea was for a meeting between the major oil consumers and producers.

But this plan never took off because to developing world, including the oil exporters, demanded that the negotiations be extended to take in raw materials, aid and finance as well as energy.

The industrial countries fi-

nally agreed in the hope that their first real chance to talk things over with OPEC's leading members would more than compensate for any concessions they might have to make in the other three fields.

So the dialogue was officially entitled the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) and since February last year has been conducted in four commissions on energy, raw materials, aid and finance.

Delegates from the industrial side insist they are not prepared to pay a high price for a continuing dialogue with the oil exporters.

But the fact that OPEC has moderated its price increases since the Paris talks began has not escaped them either. At their London summit meeting earlier this month, President Carter and the leader of the six other major industrial democracies pledged greater efforts to help the world's poor.

By the early hours of June 2, when the CIEC ministerial meeting will probably end, it should be clear if this promise really meant something.

For the moment, the mood in Paris is none too optimistic. As one delegation chief from the developing side commented "I have the uncomfortable feeling that the industrial countries are trying to give away as little as they can get away with."

Israeli £ devalued for second time in 2 months

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 25 (R). — The Israeli pound was devalued by 1.9 per cent from midnight last night, the ministry of finance announced.

The devaluation against a basket of European currencies, last fixed two months ago, was from 9.42 to 9.60 Israeli pounds, bringing the Israeli pound's dollar value to 9.44 Israeli pounds compared to its previous fixed of 9.31 Israeli pounds.

The last devaluation was on March 30.

The ministry said foodstuff prices would not be increased.

Mr. Simcha Ehrlich, chairman of the victorious right-wing Likud Party who is generally

acknowledged to be a prospective minister of finance, told Israel television yesterday his party would continue the system of creeping devaluations, with some changes.

In an interview before the announcement of the devaluation, Mr. Ehrlich outlined Likud's economic plans, saying the party hoped to reduce inflation to about 15 per cent a year within 18 months.

It would reduce government expenditure, including cuts in the defence budget, try to almost halve the number of government ministries from the present 21 posts, and cancel some taxes while increasing the value added tax (VAT) above its present eight per cent rate, he said.

The street march in Paris was a mixture of folklore and determined workers' opposition to the austerity programme of Prime Minister and Finance Minister Raymond Barre.

A highlight of the five-and-a-half-hour march through Paris was the participation of the CGT Police Union, whose members, dressed in civilian clothes, chanted: "Police, workers -- same combat" and "police at the service of the workers."

Taxi drivers edged along in their cars, honking their horns to the chant of "union, action, joint programme." The joint programme is a manifesto drawn up by the Socialist and Communist Party Alliance.

A number of clashes between police and extremists were reported at the close of the march at the Gare de l'Est Station, but otherwise the demonstration passed off without incident.

Foreign competition precipitates crisis in U.S. textile industry

NEW YORK, May 24 (AFP). — A major crisis has now hit the U.S. textile sector due to foreign competition, labour difficulties and spending needs stemming from regulations on workers' safety.

This sector is a big user of manpower, particularly unskilled personnel in the southern states of Alabama, North and

South Carolina and Georgia who have trouble finding other jobs.

In all, this industry employs 3,500,000 people. One million in natural fibers, one million in man-made fibers, one million in clothing manufacture and 500,000 in allied branches. Some 81 per cent are women, 18 per cent are blacks.

Employers and the unions, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Ladies Garment Workers, are especially worried about increased imports, which they see as the textile industry's biggest problem.

They blame wage differences as given in the industry's statistics. These show the following typical hourly wage rates: Hong Kong 74 cents, South Korea 38 cents, Taiwan 42 cents, the United States \$3.74.

The U.S. industry's staff is said to be the worst paid among workers in the main industrial sectors, being largely unskilled and generally non-unionised.

The rise in imports is regulated under the Multi-Fiber Agreement (MFA) of 1974 whose signatories total some 50 nations including the U.S., Canada, Japan and those of the European Economic Community (EEC).

Apart from this, the U.S. has bilateral arrangements with 18 countries who have not signed the Multi-Fiber Agreement, and these deals allow a six per cent rise in shipments to this country per annum.

One feature of these bilateral agreements is that unused

quotas can be carried over to the following year, which explains why textile imports into this country leaped 34 per cent last year. In fact the rise was 40 per cent if textile products and apparel are combined.

At the end of this year the Multi-Fiber Agreement runs out, and the textile employers and unions have asked the government to negotiate a slower rise in import quotas at the Geneva talks.

Their view is that imports should be allowed to rise no faster than the industry's growth rate in this country, which is currently three per cent.

This bid to cut the imports rise by half appears to have encountered a mixed reception in government circles, so that the crisis could deepen. The unions calculate that between 1969 and 1975 some 271,000 jobs disappeared in the textile and apparel industry due to imports.

Meanwhile the U.S. industry has to spend billions of dollars in future years to meet federal regulations covering factory noise, cotton dust pollution and pollution of water.

In some factories the continuous machine noise level can reach 110 decibels -- as loud as a very noisy aircraft taking off. The government has ordered this to be cut to 90 decibels, but this means replacing many machines because there is no silencing technology available.

Government experts calculate that this expenditure could total \$5 or \$6 billion. Employers have said that it could cost \$13 billion to replace all the machinery.

New barter system enables the retired to share their skills

With high prices and a limit to the amount of money a pensioner in Britain can earn before his pension is affected, it is often difficult for these people to make ends meet. A scheme has been started in which the skills a person has used all his life can be exchanged for the skills of another in a novel barter arrangement.

LONDON (Gemini). — An idea born in a small back room in a London suburb could help older folk in many countries in these inflation-ridden times -- a barter system in which the unit of exchange is skill.

It works like this: Supposing you are a retired solicitor and are engaged to do a little part-time legal work. You will be paid by the hour in stamps which you can use to hire the part-time services of, say, a gardener, a plumber, a bricklayer, a tailor or an accountant.

It sounds too Utopian to be true. But it is really happening in the Britain of 1977. The scheme is called Link Opportunity. It enables people over 55 to trade in their own particular skill without money changing hands -- and it is catching on fast.

In Britain today many people are being forced into early retirement, partly to make room for the large number of young unemployed. Some stop work as early as 55, just when they have the best of their skills and experience to offer the community.

Even those who retire in their sixties are often in peak form, thanks to improvements in health and medical care, and dislike not being able to use their skills any longer.

Part-time work is not easily come by and where it is available, income tax is a positive disincentive. Because if you have a government retirement pension, the amount you can earn before your pension is affected is limited.

On the other hand, if a retired person no longer works and is on a fixed income, then the cost of hiring services -- anything from having a suit repaired to getting the television fixed -- can be crippling with today's high prices and bills.

standard of living falls accordingly. proof coins into a piggy bank. The choice of name was fairly obvious.

"Ours is a linking venture," says Walton. "Until we arrived there was something missing. We make contact between, say, the person who can ice a wedding cake, but cannot cut a hedge, and someone who can use shears.

"We get some unusual, and human situations. We had a well qualified engineer, aurologist who was simply happy to give his services without worrying about receiving anything back. This was just a little worrying because Link is essentially a give-and-take business.

"But as it happened, the man was planning a trip to Italy and another member of the scheme, who had actually used his services as an engineer, was an Italian woman. She was able to teach him some of her language before his departure. He was delighted."

It doesn't matter whether you are an accountant or a plumber. Each member of the scheme is paid at the same rate -- one token for one hour's work.

Now clubs and organisations all over Britain are getting together with a view to setting up their own Link ventures, perhaps with the backing of local businessmen or their local authority.

Walton estimates running costs as £1,000 per year maximum, and less if you can borrow a room, get favourable printing rates and sell a bit of advertising on the back of the token cards.

Now it looks as though the scheme is going to spread to other countries.

The Club Claud Pompidou in Lille, Northern France, which has many retired members, is thinking of adapting the plan to local needs. The club's president visited Merton earlier this year, saw Link Opportunity in action, and went home fired with enthusiasm.

If, as Age Concern suspects, the 20th century problems which threw up Link are by no means peculiar to Britain, then the idea could spread.

WANTED SECRETARY

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Please contact telephone 23905.

welcome to Link opportunity



Skills for exchange -- Britain's Link Opportunity stamp card.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	140.0	140.4
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	131.0	131.4
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.3	93.5
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.2
Syrian pound	81.0	81.3
Iraqi dinar	947.0	958.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,146.0	1,150.0
Qatari riyal	460.0	465.0
Libyan dinar	760.0	770.0
UAE dirham	84.6	85.0

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market Wednesday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

one sterling	= 1.7187 / 89	U.S. dollars
one dollar	= 2.355 / 5	West German marks
	2.4585 / 4600	Dutch guilder
	2.5130 / 40	Swiss francs
	885.60 / 80	Italian lire
	277.35 / 45	Japanese yen
	4.3580 / 90	Swedish crowns
	5.2695 / 2710	Norwegian crowns
	6.011 / 30	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices suffered another sharp setback to fairly active trading Wednesday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average lost more than nine points and closed just above the 900 level, at its lowest point since January 1976.

The Dow Jones has now lost nearly 40 points in the last five sessions as American investors seem to be overwhelmed chiefly by inflation and interest worries. Their pessimism was fuelled today by speculation that commercial banks would raise their prime rate from 6 1/2 to 6 3/4 per cent on Friday.

Declines outnumbered advances on the bell by another wide margin (1,071 to 410), as most groups of shares, with the exception of gold mine, closed on a weaker tone.

Oil, paper and chemical issues were among the hardest hit and Monsanto lost more than two points. Sony was the most active stock today and lost 1/8 to 8 7/8.

At the close, the industrial average shows net 903.24, a loss of 9.16 points; Transp at 240.89, a loss of 1.66; utilities at 110.40, a loss of 0.16. 20,720,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,700,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

KCI dipped 7p ahead of results due tomorrow while Courtalds came back 4p for the same reason. Falls of up to 8p were seen in other top names but B.P. was 14p lower partly on Wall Street influences.

Rolls Royce was about 3p off after its bid terms for Fordet which ended 12p up at 45p. Ultramar and BOC International were both easier after rallying.

APOLGY: The London gold price was not received Wednesday.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* JERUSALEM, May 25 (R). — The Bank of Israel announced yesterday it will issue a new 500 Israeli pound (about £32) banknote on Thursday. The largest denomination note at present is 100 Israeli pounds (about £6.4). Israel radio said the new note was a sign of the current rate of inflation in the country, which last year was nearly 39 per cent.

* NEW YORK, May 25 (R). — The operators of New York's Kennedy airport have won a week's respite in their legal battle to keep super-sonic Concorde off their runways. The U.S. Court of Appeals yesterday extended a temporary ban on Concorde flights to Kennedy until next Wednesday -- when it will hear an appeal from airport authorities.

* ANKARA, May 25 (R). — Turkish Central Bank officials today flatly denied international rumours that Turkey had imposed a moratorium on payments for imports. Official sources confirmed that some payments were being delayed due to the country's foreign exchange problem. But they pointed out that it would be impossible to stop all payments. Proposed import payments were being screened and payment priorities were being decided daily, they said.

* WASHINGTON, May 25 (R). — The Carter administration Tuesday asked the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to review quotas on imported steel with a temporary ban on Concorde flights to Kennedy until next Wednesday -- when it will hear an appeal from airport authorities.

Israeli paper reports details of alleged U.S. Mideast peace plan

TEL AVIV, May 25 (R). — The influential Israeli newspaper Haaretz today said the United States had drawn up the general outline for a two-stage Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories as part of a final Middle East peace settlement.

The plan called for the establishment of an intricate network of early warning stations by both sides, the setting up of demilitarised zones and of one stage the possible introduction of neutral troops in the occupied West Bank, the newspaper reported.

The Haaretz report was written by journalist Matti Golan whose explosive past accounts of subtle diplomacy in the area by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger were embroiled in censorship difficulties with Israeli authorities.

Mr. Golan's reports then were based on leaks whose origin is still not known but they were generally accepted as being factual.

Mr. Golan gave no source for today's report.

According to the report, Israel would hand back to Egypt, Syria and Jordan the major part of territories taken during the June 1967 war, but permanent minor border changes would be made in Israel's favour, particularly in the Gaza Strip area.

No mention was made in the

Haaretz account of the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but the newspaper said neutral foreign troops acceptable to both sides would probably control areas evacuated by Israel between the first and second stages of the plan.

Israeli Foreign Ministry sources told Reuters when questioned on the Haaretz report that the U.S. had suggested "various ideas" for a settlement of the conflict but that no official plan as such had been presented to Israel.

The Gaza Strip, occupied from Egypt, would be dissociated from the West Bank, according to the plan outlined by Haaretz.

The Sinai desert would be wholly demilitarised and handed back to Egypt, which would have no air bases there but operate early warning stations near the Israeli border. Israel would maintain such a station deep within Egyptian territory near the Suez Canal, the newspaper said.

Warning stations would be set up in the Golan Heights occupied from Syria, but each side would maintain such stations within its own lines. Israel would however be able to maintain military "bulges" for some time within the new Syrian lines, Haaretz said.

An arrangement would also be worked out where Israeli forces would have easy access

to the Golan ridges, which overlook northern Israel, in case of conflict. But they would not be stationed there permanently. Syrian troops would presumably be stationed further back from the ridges, behind a demilitarised zone.

In the occupied West Bank, Israel would maintain permanent early warning stations along the Jordan River and in the Samaritan hills range near Nablus while Jordan would maintain such stations near the pre-1967 borders, the newspaper said.

Syrian and Jordanian airports near the new, final borders would be limited in the amount of military traffic they could handle, Haaretz wrote.

The report did not give any details of what moves Arab states would make in exchange for the geographical gains, but it said Israel would be asked by the U.S. to present its demands for what it considered would constitute "true peace" in the area.

Until now, Israeli spokesmen have said this would mean full diplomatic and other relations with neighbouring states.

The Haaretz correspondent in Washington claimed that Syria had already told the U.S. that it agreed to the demilitarised zones and a thinning out of forces called for by the plan published by the newspaper.

Israel wants details of French extradition charges against M.P.

TEL AVIV, May 25 (R). — The Israeli Justice Ministry said today it was seeking more details from France on extradition charges against Mr. Samuel Flatto-Sharon, who won a seat in last week's general elections.

Mr. Flatto-Sharon is sought by the French authorities on charges of fraud and tax evasion alleged to involve about 400 million francs (about £50 million) and a formal extradition request was sent from Paris in January.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said today the extradition request was unclear about several items such as the dates of the alleged offences.

The Franco-Israeli extradition agreement did not include offences alleged to have been committed in one country while the accused was a citizen of the other. Mr. Flatto-Sharon became an Israeli citizen in 1972.

Many Israelis, including 30 Knesset members have signed petitions calling on the government not to extradite Mr. Flatto-Sharon.

Mr. Flatto-Sharon said last week he would welcome a French invitation to go to Paris and negotiate a solution to his dispute with the financial authorities there.

U.S. House approves \$3.2b foreign aid bill

WASHINGTON, May 25 (R). — The House of Representatives yesterday approved a \$3.2 billion foreign aid bill including provisions aimed at strengthening President Carter's diplomatic initiatives in Southern Africa and the Middle East.

During a spirited debate on U.S. African policy, the House overrode strong conservative opposition and approved a \$100 million fund to help the so-called front-line African countries. It said they were economically disadvantaged by political strife in Southern Africa.

The Carter administration originally had sought the funds to help ease the transition from white to black majority rule in Rhodesia, but it accepted the alternative proposal.

The bill expresses support for the administration's efforts to promote transition to black rule, and commits Congress to approving the funds when a firm Rhodesia agreement is reached.

The House also approved President Carter's full request for \$1.7 billion in military-related economic aid to four Middle East countries.

The allocations included \$785 million for Israel, \$750 million for Egypt, \$93 million for Jordan, and \$100 million to African front-line states.

New York hotel fire kills 7

NEW YORK, May 25 (R). — At least seven people were killed and 12 injured today when fire raced through a four-story hotel and Turkish baths on Manhattan's lower West Side.

About 80 other people fled the burning building, some leaping from upper windows while others were led down ladders by firemen.

Some of the victims were believed to have died when they jumped from third and fourth floor windows of the Everard Baths, which also served as a cheap hotel.

Fire Department officials said others may have been killed when the roof and the other three floors collapsed during the height of the blaze, which broke out shortly after 7 a.m.

A Fire Department spokesman said more bodies may be buried in the rubble of the old building situated on West 28th Street between Broadway and Sixth Avenue, close by Manhattan's garment centre.

Holland votes regardless of hostage drama

4 S. Moluccans removed from prison

ASSEN, Northern Netherlands, May 25 (Agencies). — Four South Moluccans brought today from prison to the police Hostage Operations Centre here later left the centre for an undisclosed destination.

The four left under a heavy police escort at 6.30 p.m.

Dutch authorities earlier today rigged up a telephone link between the two groups of South Moluccan guerrillas who are holding hostages in the north of the country, but despite this development the drama seemed sure to drag on through a third night.

An ultimatum by one of the guerrilla groups that it would execute some of its 105 schoolchildren and other teacher hostages in a school near Assen by 2:00 p.m. local (12:00 GMT) passed with no bloodshed however.

The telephone line was established at the gunmen's demand between the guerrillas in the school and the other group holding hostages in a train at Groningen, north of Assen.

Authorities said it was believed there were 10 guerrillas in the train, one of them a woman, and five in the school.

Meanwhile, voting in the Dutch general election began today overshadowed by the dramatic events in the north.

The main electoral rivals — Labour Prime Minister Joop den Uyl and Justice Minister Andreas van Agt of the Christian Democrats — have been closeted together almost constantly for the past two days seeking ways of saving the hostages without capitulating to the demands of the guerrillas.

Neither the two major parties nor the other 23 countries in the Second Chamber of parliament have sought political advantage from the kidnapping dilemma facing the government.

Final opinion polls predicted the Labour Party would emerge as the biggest party in parliament, with the Christian Democrats close behind.

Mr. den Uyl is certain to remain as caretaker premier for several weeks, if not for months, while a new government is formed.

But there was no way of knowing whether the South Moluccan guerrilla raids might persuade some electors to stay at home or provoke a right-wing backlash.

Young: Everybody is racist

LONDON, May 25 (R). — U.S. envoy Andrew Young arrived in London today asserting that the old colonial mentality is still strong in Britain.

He also described Russians as the world's worst racists. Sweden's terrible racists and said South Africa will become more reactionary before it breaks down.

Mr. Young, the controversial Ambassador to the United Nations, was on the last leg of an 11-nation tour which began on May 10 and included seven black African countries and South Africa.

Talking to reporters aboard his plane over the African Desert, he said his whirlwind Johannesburg visit last weekend was the highlight of his tour. "I was very keyed up about the speech I made to the businessmen because I really think you have got to find some sector of that (white South African) society that is willing to be rational," he said.

Mr. Young said he was "terribly wrought up" by his encounter with black students in Johannesburg last Sunday, because he said he knew he was talking to people who "might be dead tomorrow."

The South African government was already trying to establish the identities of the young blacks he talked to, but he "purposely did not obtain their names or affiliations," he said.

He also knew that 20 black agents of the Bureau of State Security (BOSS) were among his audience.

The American diplomat and former congressman referred to colonial attitudes and racism when asked if he would have a message of reassurance when he meets British Foreign Secretary David Owen over breakfast tomorrow.

"I don't think I can reassure David Owen because the situation is really terribly difficult," he said.

"The only assurance I would want to give him is that we are going to stick with him regardless of how rough it is. I cannot give him our assurances that it is going to be easy," he said.

He said he thought of Dr. Owen as being something of a new breed of Britisher.

Philippines to thank Islamic nations for support of peace effort

MANILA, May 25 (R). — The Philippines is to offer its appreciation to various Islamic countries for supporting its peace effort and the ceasefire in its six-month-old southern Muslim rebellion, President Ferdinand Marcos said today.

He made the announcement in a statement issued after a two-hour closed door session of his National Security Council. This was called to assess the implications for the Philippines of last week's Islamic nations conference in Tripoli, at which the Philippines Muslim rebellion was discussed at some length after the collapse of peace talks last month.

Though Islamic nations, which have tried to mediate the conflict, criticised the Philippine government, they agreed to continue efforts to bring a peaceful solution and are reported to have persuaded Mr. Nur Misuari, the leader of the main rebel movement, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), not to try to seek secession but autonomy within the Philippines.

The Philippines has already declared autonomy for the 13 affected southwestern provinces in which most of the Christian country's Moslem minority live. It has set up a provisional regional government which the MNLF refuses to recognise, claiming it does not accord with previous preliminary agreements. It seeks control of the government though the Moslems have a majority in only five of the provinces.

The statement said that the National Security Council was to call a series of meetings between the mixed ceasefire committee set up last December and various government agencies to ensure more effective enforcement of the ceasefire agreement.

The statement did not explain why this was necessary, since both sides have said they are observing the ceasefire, though allegations of various breaches have been made from time to time.

Southern commander, Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon told newsmen in southern Zamboanga City today that the truce was firm.

The ceasefire committee comprises representatives of the government, the MNLF and of the Islamic Conference — Libyan Jamahiriya, Somalia, Senegal and Saudi Arabia — which has tried to mediate the conflict.

Zairese forces capture town

KINSHASA, May 25 (AFP). — Zairese forces today recaptured Sandoa, one of the two towns which had remained in the hands of Katangese rebels in Shaba Province, Zaire Radio reported here.

The report said the fall of the second town, Kapanga, was imminent.

In its mid-day news bulletin the radio said that President Mobutu Sese Seko and visiting President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo flew over Sandoa in a C-130 aircraft as Zairese troops moved into the town.

Southeast Asians form more united front to fight drug abuses

A large share of the world's illicit output of drugs comes from South East Asia. But co-operative efforts at stamping it out by the countries concerned have still recently not been effective. Now the prospects for a more united effort are greatly improved — thanks to an imaginative programme launched by the Colombo Plan. This article tells the story of a breakthrough in the fight against drug abuse.

Drugs, and the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control and Interpol.

The plan came into the picture comparatively recently. A meeting of the consultative committee, its top policy-making body, in New Delhi in 1972, recognised drug abuse as one of the most serious problems affecting both developed and developing countries.

It also recognised that Colombo Plan states accounted for a large share of the world's legal and illegal production of narcotics.

So a strategy was worked out to stem illicit traffic and curb consumption of narcotics except for medicinal purposes.

The drive was launched from Colombo where the Colombo Plan itself was born in 1950.

Mr. Abarro, First Chief of Narcotics of the Philippines National Bureau of Investigation, was appointed drugs adviser to consult governments about the economic and social implications of drug abuse, help them hold seminars to discuss the problems, and help develop anti-drug abuse programmes.

Mr. Abarro organised a conference in India that coincided with the visit to Sri Lanka of a U.N. commission on drugs. Detective Superintendent R. Sundaralingam, Secretary of the Sri Lanka National Narcotics Advisory Bureau, pointed out that the region contained countries like India, which produced about 80 per cent of the opium needed by other countries for medicinal and scientific purposes, as well as countries like Burma, Thailand and Laos — the "golden triangle" — which accounted for a large share of the world's illicit output.

Mr. Sundaralingam said drug addiction in Sri Lanka was not such a major problem, the number of addicts being under 10,000 but it could become a base for international drug smuggling operations between South East Asia and the West.

Recent detections of foreigners trying to smuggle narcotics through Sri Lanka ports and airports had tended to confirm police suspicions.

The conference recommended that the Sri Lanka government set up a central narcotics bureau and that a public education scheme be initiated.

Similar meetings and seminars were then held in other member countries, the Philippines (1974), Malaysia, Pakistan and Indonesia (1975), Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong (1976).

Two regional meetings were held in Thailand, the first in Bangkok in 1974 and the second in Chiang Mai in 1976.

The Chiang Mai meeting, sponsored by Interpol, has been hailed as a breakthrough in the global war against drug traffic.

It brought together for the first time heads of drug enforcement agencies from Europe and Asia to consider better co-operation in fighting the traffic of heroin of Far Eastern origin towards Europe.

The choice of venue was significant. Chiang Mai has been described as "a strategic point on the drug trafficking route which extends from the poppy fields in the nearby hills to the smouldering tinfields and hypodermic needles of addicts in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Amsterdam or New York."

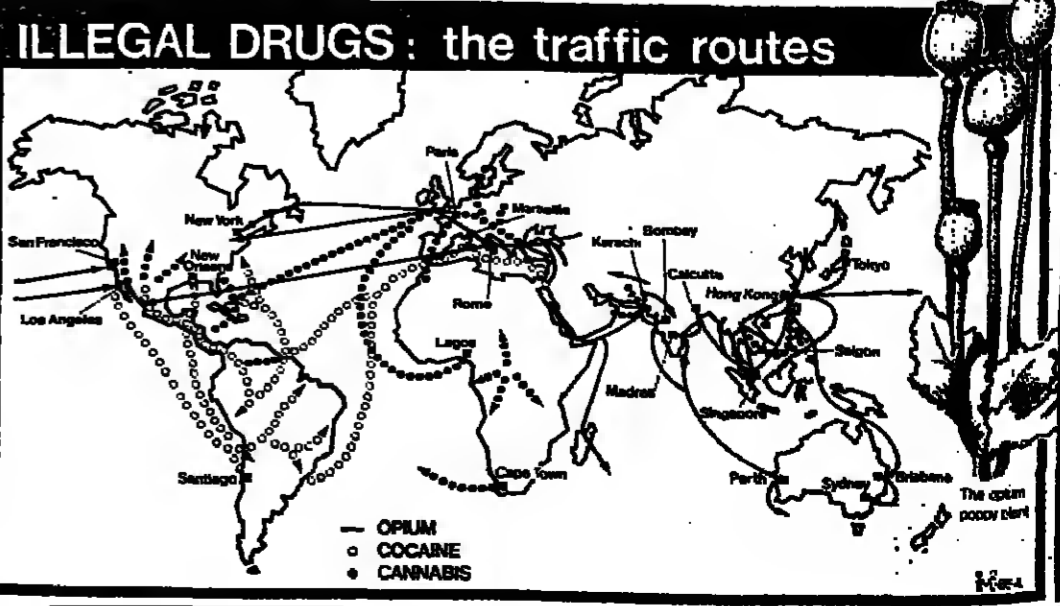
There was another reason for holding the meeting in Chiang Mai. Delegates were able to see one of the most important aspects of the fight against the traffic in opium and other products of the opium poppy: the crop replacement (or substitution) programme undertaken jointly by the Thailand government and the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

Hill farmers who cultivate opium because that has been their only means of earning a living are being induced to grow something else. The experiment is being closely watched all over the world.

The meeting agreed that co-operation between states be raised to higher levels; that steps be taken to prevent smugglers exploiting differences in legislation and penalties among various countries; and that crop replacement like the U.N. This project be launched in other areas.

All the national and regional meetings held under the Colombo Plan programme were the first of their kind. National meetings were followed by workshops — two such workshops are being held this year, in Indonesia (June) and Pakistan (August). To prevent overlapping, Mr. Abarro takes part in all conferences on the subject sponsored by U.N. agencies and Interpol.

The Colombo Plan programme now also swards fellowships and organises exchanges of personnel. More than 100 short-term fellowships have already been awarded to narcotics officials and another 100 experts or consultants have been invited to various exercises in member countries.



Quebec by-elections go Trudeau's way

MONTREAL, May 25 (R). — The Liberal Party of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau retained four seats in parliamentary by-elections in Quebec yesterday, providing a much-needed boost for his efforts to keep the predominantly French-speaking province in a united Canada.

The Liberals held off the challenge of opposition candidates supported by the separatist Parti Quebecois, which has governed the province since November.

Mr. Trudeau's party also scored by-election success on Prince Edward Island, winning a seat there that had been held by the Progressive Conservative Party for 25 years.

A fifth Quebec seat at stake yesterday was retained by the Social Credit Party.

The prime minister told reporters in Ottawa that the Liberal victories could be attributed to his government's stance on national unity, its handling of the economy and the people's belief that his cabinet could manage the country "in every sense".

Urban Affairs Minister Andre Guellet said the results were "an exceptional victory for Trudeau."

Quebec city Mayor Gilles Lamontagne, who won the seat of Langelier for the Liberals yesterday, told reporters: "It's a victory for Trudeau as leader of the Liberal Party and a victory for the good sense of the people of Quebec."

Spanish ultra-rightist leader freed on bail

MADRID, May 25 (R). — A prominent Spanish ultra-rightist accused of setting up a clandestine army factory in a Madrid flat was freed on bail today pending trial on terrorism charges.

Chemist Mariano Sanchez Covisa, 58-year-old leader of an extreme rightwing group called "Guerrillas of Christ the King," was arrested in February after a chain of political violence denounced by the government as a plot to provoke an army coup.

His "guerrillas" have been blamed for attacks on leftists in Madrid and the northern Basque country over the last few years.

A judge ordered Senor Sanchez Covisa's provisional liberty as leftist political parties complained that some of their members had been shot at or beaten up by extreme rightwingers while putting up campaign posters for general elections on June 15.

Also released on bail of 75,000 pesetas (£640) each were two women, alleged members of the extreme leftwing GRAPO (October First Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups) which kidnapped two high officials a few months ago.

Senor Sanchez Covisa's lawyer told reporters his client could not be kept in jail while criminals convicted of more serious offences were released under a royal amnesty granted in March.

Four young Socialist and Communist militants reported they were beaten up by extreme rightwingers here last night while putting up party propaganda.

The newspaper Diario 16 reported today that Basque industrialist Javier de Ybarra y Berge, who was kidnapped in the northern city of Bilbao five days ago, was being held by a rebel wing of the Basque nationalist guerrilla organisation ETA.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* BELGRADE, May 25 (R). — Yugoslav President Tito today celebrated his 85th birthday in apparent good health and showing no signs that he plans to relinquish his control of the country and its Communist Party. The president, who is also celebrating his 40th anniversary as party chief, received well-wishers at his official White Palace residence. They included his closest aides and Parisian comrades in the fight against Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia during World War II, family members and youth delegations.

* LONDON, May 25 (AFP). — British Foreign Secretary David Owen today ruled out any "crude political trade-off" over Southern Africa between Britain and the United States, and South Africa. It would be neither "credible nor defensible" for Britain and the United States to seek South African support for their initiatives on Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa) in return for a promise to relax "pressure" on South Africa, he said. Dr. Owen's comments to the United Nations Association here were seen by observers as an attempt to allay fears expressed by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda that such a "trade-off" might be arranged.

* ROME, May 25 (R). — The Communists would become Italy's biggest party if elections were held now, according to surprise results of a public opinion poll published today. The Communists would move ahead of the Christian Democrats who have ruled Italy for the past 30 years, with 36.2 per cent of the vote, compared with the Christian Democrats' 35.4 per cent. The poll, conducted by Demoskopia for Panorama weekly newsmagazine, also found that the large majority of Italians would favour a government which involved the Communists in some way or other.

* MOSCOW, May 25 (R). — The Soviet news agency Tass yesterday dismissed President Jimmy Carter's foreign policy speech last weekend as an attempt to secure world leadership for the United States. The Tass report from Washington was the first mention in the official Soviet media of the speech given at Notre Dame University, in which the president set out guidelines for a new American foreign policy.

* LONDON, May 25 (R). — Ugandan President Idi Amin has said he will attend next month's Commonwealth conference in London "whether they like it or not." Uganda Radio reported last night. He told a meeting of government officials that Britain would be responsible for his security at the conference.

* VIENNA, May 25 (R). — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Bucharest today for two days of talks with President Nicolae Ceausescu and senior Romanian officials. He was welcomed at Bucharest's airport by Prime Minister Manes Marescu when he arrived from Athens, the Agereps news agency reported.

* PARIS, May 25 (AFP). — At least 104 journalists were in prison or had disappeared for political reasons around the world on March 15 of this year, Amnesty International reported here today. The human rights organisation said this represented an increase of 80 per cent in the number of journalists being held as political prisoners since it drew up a list on May 9 last year.